

20 March 1963

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg  
Chairman  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Glenn:

It has come to our attention that consideration is being given to the establishment of a Western New York Nuclear Service Center at Ashford, Cattaraugus County, New York, and to the incorporation therein of a plant to process irradiated fuel elements from nuclear reactors. I understand that the AEC held a public hearing on 4 March at Olean on the proposed chemical processing plant.

As you know, the U. S. Government and the intelligence community are vitally dependent on photographic reconnaissance. A large fraction of the photographic materials and processing for this program occur in the Rochester area which is a short distance to the East of the proposed Nuclear Service Center. This Agency is in no position to evaluate the possible risks to these photographic facilities from the proposed plant, but we should like to urge that the AEC in evaluating this proposal consider the effect on our national security which would result from even a temporary dislocation of our photographic capability in this area.

Sincerely,

Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

Herbert Scoville, Jr.  
Deputy Director (Research)

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